

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N21/65 G01J3/44 G06T5/00 A61B5/103 G02B7/28																				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G01N G01J G06T A61B G02B																				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched																				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC																				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Category *</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">X</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">WO 01/88590 A (CZARNETZKI NORBERT ; SCHERUEBL THOMAS (DE); ZEISS CARL JENA GMBH (DE)) 22 November 2001 (2001-11-22) page 1; figures 1,3,4 page 8 - page 15</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Y</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">US 6 008 894 A (BLASI RAYMOND J ET AL) 28 December 1999 (1999-12-28) column 2, line 16 - column 3, line 51; figure 1</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Y</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">WO 97/04348 A (MORPHOMETRIX TECHN INC ; RAZ RYAN S (CA)) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) page 1, line 1 - line 5; figure 1 page 5, line 8 - line 20 page 9, line 35 - page 10, line 18</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">-/-</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	WO 01/88590 A (CZARNETZKI NORBERT ; SCHERUEBL THOMAS (DE); ZEISS CARL JENA GMBH (DE)) 22 November 2001 (2001-11-22) page 1; figures 1,3,4 page 8 - page 15	1-14	Y	US 6 008 894 A (BLASI RAYMOND J ET AL) 28 December 1999 (1999-12-28) column 2, line 16 - column 3, line 51; figure 1	1-14	Y	WO 97/04348 A (MORPHOMETRIX TECHN INC ; RAZ RYAN S (CA)) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) page 1, line 1 - line 5; figure 1 page 5, line 8 - line 20 page 9, line 35 - page 10, line 18	1-14		-/-	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.																	
* Special categories of cited documents : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 																				
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Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.			& document member of the same patent family																	
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report																		
17 September 2004		07/10/2004																		
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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Palentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Duijs, E																		

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	YEO T T E ET AL: "Autofocusing for tissue microscopy" IMAGE AND VISION COMPUTING UK, vol. 11, no. 10, December 1993 (1993-12), pages 629-639, XP002296842 ISSN: 0262-8856 page 629 - page 631	2-9
A	ROCA X ET AL: "NEW AUTOFOCUSING ALGORITHM FOR CYTOLOGICAL TISSUE IN A MICROSCOPY ENVIRONMENT" OPTICAL ENGINEERING, SOC. OF PHOTO-OPTICAL INSTRUMENTATION ENGINEERS. BELLINGHAM, US, vol. 37, no. 2, 1 February 1998 (1998-02-01), pages 635-641, XP000742684 ISSN: 0091-3286 the whole document	4-9
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 05, 12 May 2003 (2003-05-12) & JP 2003 029138 A (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD), 29 January 2003 (2003-01-29) abstract	4
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